

TALES OF TEXAS TOWNS AUSTIN THE STATE CAPITAL

BY WILL L. VINING

AUSTIN is named after the father of Texas, Stephen F. Austin, and lies on a number of beautiful hills on the Colorado river. This city, which is justly the pride of loyal Texans, was not selected haphazard nor according to the whim or caprice of any man or set of men, but our forefathers, men whom all Texans are proud of appointed a commission to travel over this great empire, called Texas, and to select for them and posterity a city that combined all the requisites of a capital city worthy of the empire it would represent.

This committee of men of intelligence and patriotism, after traveling far and wide and viewing the highlands and the lowlands, the prairies and the woods, the lakes and the sea, finally came up from the south and rested upon the hills just south of where Austin is today and about where St. Edwards college now stands. Their eyes also rested on a panorama that was pleasing, and, with one accord, they all said "Eureka." Spread before them was the rugged Colorado river with its fertile valleys.

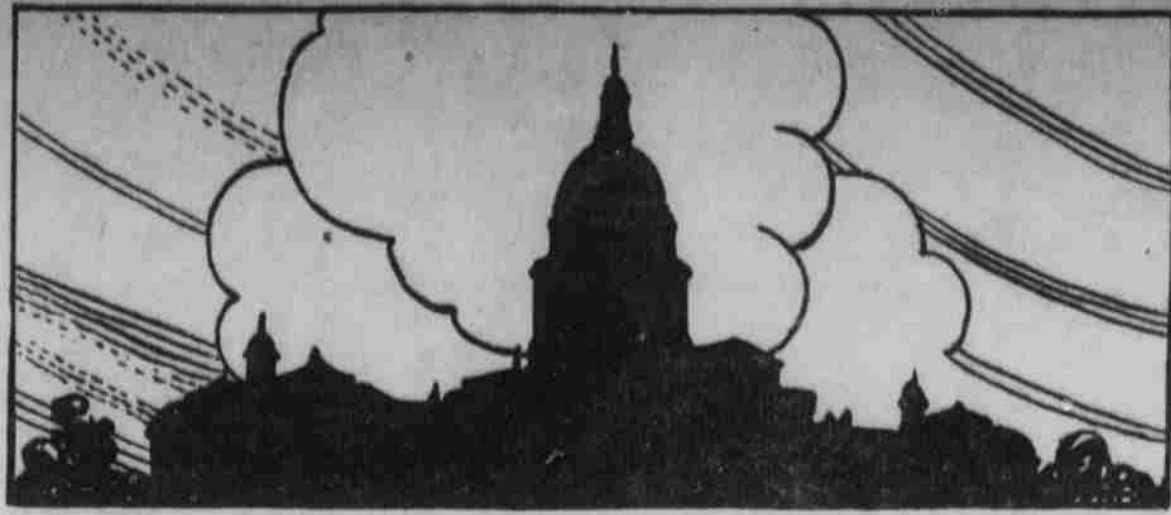
Just beyond lay the prairie, glistening like an emerald sheen in the sun's rays. To the west lay the mountains, following the Colorado's stream, studded with the cedar and the oak and the elm.

At this place they found the timber, the stone, the water, drainage, the elevation, the mountain view and, withal, a place which really emphasized the word "Capital." With one accord they all decided that it was useless to look farther, and hence the report was made, the capital had been selected, and it was Austin.

In this connection it might not be amiss to quote from John Henry Brown's History of Texas in which he recounts the action of the Texas congress under President Lamar, which led to the selection of the site now occupied by Austin for the capital of Texas.

The first congress under Lamar's administration, in January, 1838, passed a law providing for the permanent location of the seat of government. It was a question of deep interest and excited more or less sectional feeling. The whole West and the upper frontier wished it located as far in the interior as practicable, that it might become the grand focus of frontier protection. Messrs. William Menefee of Colorado, James Kerr of Jackson, Cornelius Van Ness of Texas and John Caldwell of Bastrop, were the special champions of the measure. After many propositions, the law, as finally passed provided for the election, by joint vote of congress, of five commissioners, who should select the location and purchase lands for a townsite, upon which action upon their part the president was authorized to appoint an agent to plat and lay off the town, and have public buildings erected. The commissioners were restricted to the territory bounded east by the Brazos, west by the Colorado and south by the old Nacogdoches road crossing at Bastrop on the Colorado, and Nashville on the Brazos. The commissioners elected Albert C. Horton of Matagorda, Isaac W. Burton of Houston county, William Menefee of Colorado, Isaac Campbell of San Augustine, and Louis P. Cooke of Brazoria. All excepting the first named were then members of the house of representatives.

On the 15th of April, 1839, the commissioners reported in haste to President Lamar, their examinations of both rivers and the country between, and the purchase of 7,125 acres of land, having a front of three miles on the east bank of the Colorado river, a mile or two below the base, or foothills of the high lands usually designated as the Colorado mountains. The price paid for this site was \$21,000 in the treasury notes of the republic. It was intended by congress that the next session to assemble on the first Monday in November, 1839, should be held at the new site. President Lamar, as a frontier measure, was in favor of the change, and lost no time in carrying the law into effect. He appointed Edwin Waller as agent to lay off the town. At that time only two families (those of Harrell and Hornsby) lived on the site and one or two families three miles below. Beyond them to the north and northwest lay an unbroken wilderness. To the northeast it was sixty and eighty miles to a few settlements on the Brazos and Little river. Southwest to San Antonio, eighty-four miles, there was not a human habitation, and no road for the first thirty miles. It was a bold enterprise thus to plant the capital of the young republic in the very teeth and the traveled pathway of the wild savages. On the spot



chosen still stands the state capitol, and the beautiful city of Austin.

Waller, with surveyors, carpenters and laborers, began his labor as soon as possible. While the town was being laid out, whipsaws and axes resounded in the vicinity, felling trees and converting them into planks, boards, shingles and house-logs. Lumber was hauled thirty-five miles from the mills at Bastrop. Hundreds of men were employed and guarded by rangers under Captains Mark B. Lewis and James Owensby, of the battalion commanded by Major William J. Jones.

By October a two-story frame house for the president, a board house for congress and log buildings for all departments were completed, and while this was in progress, a large number of log cabins for residences and business purposes, several large houses of numerous rooms for taverns and two others of plank or boards were erected. The heads of the departments and archives arrived during October, and by the end of that month, Austin had probably 1,500 inhabitants, many of whom lived in tents or under temporary sheds. It is safe to say that no town, containing the same number of souls, on the American continent, ever had more talent among its founders. Certainly in no settlement, where defense against savages devolved upon the members of every household, was there ever more enlightenment and refinement.

Along romantic lines Austin also has her legends. The story of the beautiful Indian maiden Laughing Water, jumping from the apex of Mount Bonnell into the waters of the Colorado River and there perishing on account of the refusal of the big chief to allow her to marry the red lover of her choice is well known in song and story. There have been many thousands of people from every section of the world who have visited beautiful Mount Bonnell and examined the supposed spot where this lovely Indian maiden took her leap into eternity. However, the historian to the doubting Thomases that he can show them Mount Bonnell and the Colorado River if they will visit Austin.

Austin can perhaps boast of having been the home of more celebrated and famous people than any city in Texas. Beginning with the great founders of Texas, Austin, Travis, Lamar, Houston and at a later date, Governor Roberts, the old alcalde, the peerless leader William Jennings Bryan, and at a still more recent date, Secretary of Agriculture David F. Houston and Postmaster General A. S. Burleson.

In a literary way Austin can also boast the distinction of having been the home of the distinguished author, Amelia Barr, and the king of all short story writers, O. Henry. It was here that T. P. O'Connor, a member of parliament from Ireland and far famed writer, secured his wife.

Austin nestles like a gem in the crown of the Colorado. The low range of cedar-clad mountains surrounding the city on three sides, glow and gleam like sapphire in the sunlight. And, "at a distance in the twilight, it robs them in their purple hue."

These hills are a shield from wintry blasts. The winters are short and for the most part steady breeze from the Gulf. The death rate per capita is less than 10 per 1,000 per annum. The average altitude of the city is

about 650 above the sea level, the capitol and University being about 750 feet while Hyde Park is about 800 feet.

The great granite capitol is the largest state building in the United States and is located on an elevation near the center of the city, originally selected as the capitol by the Republic of Texas.

It is shaped like a Greek cross, with projecting center and flanks, having a rotunda and dome at the intersection of the main corridors. From east to west it is 600 feet long. From north to south it is 287 feet deep and the height of the apex of the dome is 313 feet, being six feet higher than the national capitol. The exterior walls are built of Texas red granite from Burnet county. This granite is pronounced by experts to be the equal of any in the world, both in beauty and imperishability. The stately ideas of the



THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

ancient builders have been blended with the useful of the modern and the whole conception and aim seems to have been to meet the practical demands of a progressive and cultured people. There are 254 rooms, 900 windows and 500 doors in the building. The grounds surrounding the building embrace about twenty acres and have several miles of gravel and cement walks crossing in all directions. Broad drives have been constructed around the capitol on each side from north to south. Intersecting drives lead into the grounds from east to west. There are a number of artificial lakes and fountains where aquatic plants are grown in tropical luxuriance. In the grounds are a number of beautiful monuments commemorating the Texas and Confederate heroes. The Alamo monument is conspicuous for beauty and sublimity. These monuments are not only works of art but are historic. Descriptions give information to visitors and the general public.

While Austin has few parks, some of them will vie in beauty with those of the more favored sections of the Union. Woolridge

Park, which is a perfect natural amphitheater, with its pergola in the center which is used as bandstand, perhaps is unequalled in Texas for beauty and it is here in the summer that thousands of people congregate to enjoy the music of the band concerts and the evening breezes.

It is the policy of the present city administration to beautify its three parks, and to make them more inviting.

In and around Austin can be found the most beautiful drives.

The Chamber of Commerce, together with the Automobile and Good Roads Clubs, is working with the city council and county commissioners in repairing and improving and building roads around the city, and it is expected within the next two years Austin will be made popular by her magnificent automobile roads.

Austin's new bridge spanning the Colorado River is considered by engineering experts as one of the most perfectly constructed bridges in the South. It is a magnificent structure, extending from the foot of Congress avenue, Austin's main street, to the head of South Congress, opening into South Austin. The length of the bridge is 960 feet, composed of eight arches, reinforced concrete, each 120 feet long. The bridge, which required 16,000 yards of concrete and 450 tons of steel, cost the county and city \$210,000.

The bridge forms a wide thoroughfare, over which pass the street car lines, two roadways and two sidewalks, which about upon the roadway, the latter being paved with creosote wooden blocks.

Austin has a good supply of water. It is furnished through filtering trenches and is as clear as crystal. The supply is practically inexhaustible and cheap, 5,000 gallons being furnished for \$1. This water is furnished by the city plant, as is the electric light which is considered equal of any in the Union.

The great Austin dam now being constructed across the Colorado River at Austin, Texas, is to be of reinforced concrete, hollow type, and the specifications call for the equipment and completion of a power plant consisting of turbing, generators and pumps and all necessary connections and also a reservoir of 10,000,000 gallons capacity, situated on top of a hill north of the city.

The lake formed by the new dam will be of considerably larger extent than that made by the old dam, the amount of water impounded will extend back for almost thirty miles. There will be a depth of five feet more water retained by the new structure and it will form one of the most picturesque pleasure resorts in the entire South.

Aside from the magnificent capitol building, Austin has the general land office, the state deaf and dumb institute, the blind institute, the state insane asylum, the Confederate Home, the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the University of M. C. A. building, St. Edwards College, St. Mary's College, the Swedish College, the only one in the United States, and the government is now erecting a \$225,000 postoffice that will be equal of anything in Texas.

At the University of Texas, in addition to the main building with immense auditorium, there is a new library building which is just finished and erected at a cost of \$250,000. This is easily the finest library building of any university in the South. And in addition on the grounds are the law building, the engineering building, the women's building, the power and heating plant, which cost \$100,000, a laboratory and "J" hall, all magnificent structures which go to make up the finest and greatest university in the South.

This institution of learning is the largest in the South, and last year had the attendance of 1,667, and this year promises to reach the 4,000 mark.

The capital city has some finely paved streets. Lavaca street in particular being paved with bitulith and is bordered with large natural trees, whose graceful foliage intertwine make a grand rustic beauty.

LINEUP OF THE BIG FOOTBALL TEAMS FOR THE 1913 SEASON



ALL of the state teams have at this time played at least one game. Southwestern University met Fort Worth Polytechnic and played a scoreless tie, and A. & M. opened its season at College Station with Trinity. On the showings made by the state teams so far, the University of Texas appears to be the one that has played the better football. It has probably never before happened that a college of the size and athletic standing of A. & M. has had to face the beginning of a football season with only two of its old men back. That is the situation that Moran faces this year, however, and he will be put to the extreme test to develop a team that can successfully carry out the schedule that has been made for the cadets.

Austin has a fast and aggressive team this year and the football world expected it to hold Texas to a much closer score. Last season Johnson's squad all but took the university into camp, a field goal giving the university the decision in a very doubtful contest. With a seasoned team and good material with which to patch up the losses it was thought that Austin had a good chance to down the State University eleven.

Texas's showing undoubtedly means that the coaches have made much progress with their men since the 14-7 game with Poly-

technic. The orange and white still seems to be unable to keep its opponents from crossing the goal line, however. Last season almost every team that the university played managed to make a score against it, and this year history appears to be repeating itself. With Sewanee, Kansas Aggies, Oklahoma and Notre Dame on the schedule it will be necessary for the Texas coaching staff to bolster up the defense materially if it expects to stop those teams. Notre Dame, especially, has demonstrated that it has a good scoring machine by running up a score of 87-0 against its first opponent of the season. Sewanee has also showed strength by defeating the University of Chattanooga, which usually has a good eleven, by four touchdowns and at the same time holding the Chattanooga men scoreless. A single touchdown means the loss of many games and Texas cannot afford to get in the habit of letting opponents get by if it hopes to come through the season with a clean record.

Baylor again disappointed those who hold allegiance to the gold and green when it only managed to eke out a 9-7 victory over San Marcos Academy. For years Baylor has not been able to turn out a team that has done the college credit. With one of the largest student bodies of any school in the state, it should have a team every year that could successfully meet any in Texas.

The Daniel Baker-Howard Payne game recently indicates that these institutions are more evenly matched than they have been in several years. As a rule these schools, both of which are located at Brownwood, play three games together each season, the last one coming on Thanksgiving day. The last game of the year between these elevens is the big football event of the western part of the state, and attracts a large crowd from the surrounding territory.

The big eastern football teams are now actively lining up for the season and Robert B. Storer, captain of Harvard's football team, is smashing his way through "scrubs" across white lines of the gridiron; "Charley" Brickley is drop-kicking in better form than ever, and Percy Haughton is back at Cambridge as head coach. Wherefore Harvard hopes run high and Harvard men expect to

see their football team again at the top of the heap when the final whistle calls the close of the 1913 season.

All the colleges were in the field early this year and Harvard was among the first of them. For, although Cambridge students are confident that their eleven is going to repeat the history of last year, defeat both Princeton and Yale, and thereby gain the right to the title of champions, the men who wear the moleskin are awake to the fact that it is going to take a lot of mighty hard work and necessitate a lot of mighty hard knocks to vanquish the followers of the Bulldog and the Tiger, thirsting for revenge. Princeton was disposed of in 1912 to the tune of 16 to 6, but the Tigers are a husky aggregation this year, and are imbued with the spirit which for two or three seasons seemed lacking in the teams from Old Nassau.

Yale is even an enemy to try the utmost strength of any Harvard team, and Yale this year has the humiliation of a crushing 20 to 0 defeat to wipe out. Percy Haughton and his men know this and they are working hard and ceaselessly to prepare for the struggle which will be fought out on Soldiers' Field Nov. 22. Incidentally the score of 20 to 0 is scarcely a fair gauge of the relative strength of the two 1912 teams. The first part of the game looked like anybody's match, and it seemed a question of which team would crack first. Yale "cracked" and Harvard swept on to an impressive victory.

It was a good omen for Harvard success—at least, for the spirit which makes for success—that the first day's practice at Cambridge saw the greatest number of candidates on the field that Harvard has ever turned out for the initial practice. Best of all, the veterans were on hand. There was no holding back of the men who had reason to feel moderately certain of positions on the eleven. These men were just as anxious to learn more about the game as were the youngsters. Among them were O'Brien, Hitchcock, Captain Storer, Trumbull, Pennock, Hardy and Brickley.

A few days after the opening of the squad numbered 100 and today at least 150 men on the football team, though the varsity squad has been re-

to a considerably smaller number. The first days of drill brought one or two disappointments.

Because of an injury to his back, "Dick" Wigglesworth announced that by advice of his physician he would not play football this year. In 1912 Wigglesworth alternated with Parmenter at center. Haughton had hoped that the substitute would prove capable of filling Parmenter's place this year, the regular having been graduated, and Wigglesworth's loss has brought about a shake-up in the middle of the line. W. H. Trumbull, left guard of last season, is being tried out at center. Although Trumbull was assigned to care for the position left of center last year, he is experienced as a pivot man, having played center in preparatory school. Ernest W. Soucy of Forest Hills, Mass., who was center of the Harvard freshman team last year and played the position at Boston Latin school, probably will be Trumbull's strongest rival for the honor of playing center regularly. Soucy is possibly a little light for the pivot position, although coaches no longer consider extreme weight the most important factor for the center position in the line. Of course most plays through center have great weight behind them and a heavy man, capable of stemming a mass play, is needed. What Soucy lacks in sheer weight he makes up for in activity, grit and wiry strength. It is likely, unless some new candidate puts in an appearance, that Soucy and Trumbull will alternate in the position. Trumbull is the heavier man, but he is prone to injury, and by the end of the season is usually suffering from troublesome hurts. The alteration in the rule allowing players to be sent back into the game after being one withdrawn makes such an arrangement more practical this year.

Heretofore the rules have allowed a player once withdrawn to be sent back into the game only at the beginning of any period. The frequent necessity for unexpected substitutions in the fourth period, when men are more liable to injury because of fatigue, led the rule makers to provide this year for the return of a player who had been withdrawn only at any time during the last period. The rule remains unchanged for the other periods.